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Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Belarus: draft resolution

Human rights and scientific and technological progress

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and other international instruments relating to human rights,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[2]

Recalling also the provisions of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind[3] and that the year 2000 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the above-mentioned Declaration,

Recalling further that the results of scientific and technological progress are to be used exclusively in the interest of international peace, for the benefit of humankind and for promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights[4] and other human rights international instruments,

Conscious that modern science and technology present the possibility of creating conditions for the prosperity of society and development of the human person,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[3] Resolution 3384 (XXX).
[4] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

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Recognizing that everyone has the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications and that no individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development,

Aware of the rapid development of the life sciences, and seeking to promote scientific and technical progress in this field in a manner respectful of fundamental rights and for the benefit of all,

Noting with concern that often the achievements of scientific and technological progress, in particular the Internet, are used for the dissemination of information and propaganda of ideas that entail abuse of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. *Calls upon* all Member States to take all necessary measures to ensure that the achievements of scientific and technological progress and the intellectual potential of humankind are used for promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Invites* all Member States to implement relevant provisions and principles of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind[3] aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Urges* the international community, in particular the relevant United Nations bodies, to promote universal access to knowledge and technology in order to facilitate the realization of all human rights;

4. *Strongly condemns* the use of results of scientific and technological progress and, in particular, the Internet for the dissemination of information and propaganda of ideas that entail abuse of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and calls upon Governments to take appropriate measures to control and to stop these phenomena;

5. *Decides* to examine this question at its fifty-seventh session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".